

20th October 1927]

A.—The Government did not ignore the claims of Muhammadans but considered them carefully.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" May I know the names of Moslem members who were considered ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I am not prepared to give the names."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB :—" May I know from the hon. Member whether, after considering the matter carefully, the Government is of the opinion that there are not competent Moslems to take the place of a High Court Judge in Madras ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I am not prepared to answer that question."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether the Government has tried to find a Moslem either in this Presidency or elsewhere ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I am not able to add anything to the answer already given."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" The hon. Member need not give the names. May I ask how many names were considered ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" No, Sir I cannot give the information."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" May I know whether the names of any Moslem gentlemen from other provinces have been considered ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I am not prepared to answer any question of that sort."

Appointment of District and Sessions Judges.

* 719 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the names of Messrs. Abbas Ali Khan and N. Chandrasekhara Ayyar were before the Government for appointment as District Judges in June 1926 ; whether the appointments were not made on the ground that it was not advisable to appoint practising lawyers for temporary periods to such posts ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the then Law Member had written a series of letters to one of these two candidates to prepare himself for the appointment of a District Judgeship and that he would get the post by September 22nd ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Moslem gentleman was practically assured by the Government of such appointment and that it was only on technical grounds that the appointment was not made at that time ;

(d) why the claims of the Moslem gentleman have now been overlooked and how a non-Moslem gentleman has been appointed to the post of City Civil Court Judge ; and

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(e) whether the Government will be pleased to state the number of gentlemen castewar now occupying the post of District and Sessions Judges and additional District and Sessions Judges in the Presidency either permanently or temporarily?

A.—(a) The answer to the first part of the clause is in the negative; the second part does not arise.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) No.

(d) The Government do not admit that his 'claims' have been overlooked.

(e) The figures as they stood on 1st September 1927 are given below:—

Brahmans	...	...	...	...	...	13
Non-Brahman Hindus	...	...	...	...	...	3
Muhammadans	...	...	...	...	...	2
Non-Asiatics and Anglo-Indians	...	...	...	...	...	9
Indian Christians	...	...	...	...	...	1

MR. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI:—"May I know with reference to clause (b), whether any individual Member of the Government knows that information?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I do not know, Sir."

Valuation of small-cause suits in the original and appellate sides.

* 720 Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether in suits of a small-cause nature, tried by District Munsifs on the original side, from whose decisions appeals are entertained in district courts, court-fee at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is collected in the court of first instance, and at $11\frac{1}{4}$ per cent in the appellate court, in all the district courts in the Presidency;

(b) if not, in which courts it is so levied; and

(c) whether the Government propose to remove the anomaly by amending the Court Fees Act, so that even in appeals in such suits, a court-fee of only $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is collected?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

MR. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know how long it has been under consideration and when a decision is likely to be reached?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I must ask for notice for the first part of the question. I cannot answer the second part."

MR. A. B. SHETTY:—"How long it has been under consideration?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I must ask for notice of the question."